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Jim Hubbard: 202-226-4661(o), 202-674-0594(c)

***Carnahan: 'Our Addiction to Oil Is Benefiting Big Oil and Wall Street -At the Expense of American Families and Our National Security.'***

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Following President Barack Obama's address to the nation regarding the 57-day oil leak occurring in the Gulf of Mexico Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) released the following statement urging action on clean-energy legislation to create jobs:

***"As we continue to work to repair the damage being done by the worst oil spill in American history, we must take a hard look at what our reliance on oil is costing us as a nation.***

***"The fact is, our addiction to oil is benefiting Big Oil and Wall Street – at the expense of American families and our national security.***

***"In 2009, BP reported \$16.6 billion in profits and paid \$10 billion to shareholders. And that's chump change compared to Exxon Mobil, which posted a record \$45 billion profit just 2 years ago.***

***"Clearly, our addiction to oil has been great for the big oil corporations and Wall Street speculators. But it has been terrible for American families and businesses – and not just those in the Gulf States who are watching their entire way of life threatened by this spill. Across the nation, families and businesses have struggled for years to keep up with rising energy costs.***

***"This addiction to oil is not only resulting in increased reliance on oil from riskier sources – like deep sea drilling – but also increased reliance on foreign and often hostile sources. This represents a grave threat to our national security.***

***“It is a situation that is, quite simply, unsustainable. Without a doubt, now is the time we take serious action to end this addiction and instead focus on going after polluters and creating clean-energy jobs right here in the United States.***

***“I believe our nation is at a crossroads. We can either go back to the old Bush-era policies, with little or no oversight of the oil industry and a refusal to invest in new, clean-energy alternatives. Or we can move forward. We can hold the oil industry accountable for their actions and implement strict regulations so that this never happens again. And we can invest in home-grown energy solutions that will create jobs, lower prices, and strengthen our national security. Countries like China and India are making these investments as we speak; we will have no one to blame but ourselves if we ignore this moment and continue to give our hard-earned money to Big Oil, Wall Street bankers and send trillions of dollars in American wealth overseas to foreign adversaries.***

***“Make no mistake: we are facing many serious challenges. But no one is better than Americans at working together in the face of adversity to find innovative solutions. And that’s what it’s going to take to break this addiction on oil.***

***“I will continue to demand that BP take full responsibility for their actions. But in addition, it’s time to get serious about ending our dangerous addiction to oil. That’s why I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass a clean-energy bill to create jobs and set our nation on a strong new path for the future.”***

**— Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3)**

Russ Carnahan has kept consistent pressure on BP to focus its attention on stopping the leak, cleaning up the mess and paying for the economic and environmental damage they have done. He is a sponsor of legislation that would repeal liability caps, making BP and other oil companies – not taxpayers - responsible for the full cost and adverse economic impacts of their mistakes. He has been urging his colleagues to support the legislation to hold BP fully accountable.

As a member of the House Science and Technology Committee, Carnahan is a strong advocate for clean-energy jobs. He strongly supported the American Clean Energy and Security Act, approved by the U.S. House of Representatives last year, which would create millions of clean-energy jobs that cannot be shipped overseas. He is also the author of legislation that will

strengthen regional economies by identifying

Energy Innovation Hubs

where research institutions can concentrate their efforts to move technological breakthroughs from the research and development phase to the market. The Hubs will help advance the U.S.'s transition to a clean-energy economy and to support the growth of new sectors of the economy - and the jobs that come with them. This measure was approved by the House last month as part of the America COMPETES reauthorization.

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